

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05129 060759Z

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ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 L-03 H-02 /018 W

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P R 060742Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8117

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 5129

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: EIGHTH SESSION MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL

REF: SEOUL 4890

SUMMARY: PACE OF TRIAL QUICKENED AGAIN AS DEFENSE COMPLETED CROSS EXAMINATION OF FIVE DEFENDANTS UNDER PRODDING FROM PRESIDING JUDGE. WIVES OF DEFENDANTS, MINUS US CITIZEN FAYE MUN WHO ATTENDED TRIAL, CONTINUED BOYCOTT OF TRIAL. AFTER MINOR SCUFFLE WITH POLICE NEAR COURTHOUSE AND MARCH TO GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING TO ATTEMPT SEE HOME MINISTER, POLICE LOADED WOMEN IN BUS AND DROVE THEM HOME. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH EIGHTH SESSION OF MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL, PACE AGAIN PICKED UP AS DEFENSE LAWYERS COMPLETED CROSS EXAMINATION OF FIVE DEFENDANTS UNDER CONSTANT PRODDING FROM PRESIDING JUDGE. DURING TWO SESSIONS, DAY WHICH DID NOT END UNTIL 6:10 PM, DEFENSE CROSS-EXAMINED MUN TONG-HWAN, HUSBAND OF US CITIZEN FAYE MUN AND FORMER HANKUK SEMINARY PROFESSOR; YI U-CHONG, HEAD OF KOREA CHURCH WOMEN UNITED AND READER OF THE DECLARATION ON MARCH 1; YI MUN-YONG, FORMER PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT KOREA UNIVERSITY; AN PYONG-MU, FORMER PROFESSOR AT HANKUK SEMINARY AND YI HAE-TONG, PASTOR OF CHURCH WHERE 55 COPIES OF MARCH 1 DECLARATION WERE RUN OFF.

2. TESTIMONY BY FIVE DEFENDANTS CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. ALL ADMITTED THEIR PART IN MYONGDONG AFFAIR AND LIKE OTHERS BEFORE
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THEM DENIED ANY THOUGHT OF AGITATING PEOPLE TO RISE UP AGAINST

GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE DEFENDANTS MOSTLY CHRISTIAN MINISTERS, THERE WAS SOMEWHAT MORE EMPHASIS ON RELIGIOUS NATURE OF MARCH 1 DECLARATION DURING JULY 3 SESSION. NUMBER OF THEM STATED THAT UNDER YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AND EM-9, THERE IS NO REAL FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN KOREA, AND, AS CHRISTIAN MINISTERS, THEY COMPELLED BY CONSCIENCE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. WIVES OF DEFENDANTS, MINUS US CITIZEN FAYE MUN WHO ATTENDED MORNING TRIAL SESSION FOR HUSBAND'S TESTIMONY, CONTINUED BOYCOTT OF TRIAL. DRESSED IN LAVENDER DRESSES BEARING CROSS AND PRISON NUMBERS OF THEIR HUSBANDS, WOMEN HAD MINOR SCUFFLE WITH POLICE AS THEY TRIED ENTER COURTHOUSE BUT WERE REFUSED. THEY THEN MARCHED IN PELTING RAIN TO UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING TO ATTEMPT TO PROTEST TO HOME MINISTER. WOMEN WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO BUILDING AND AT THIS POINT, POLICE MOVED IN AND PUT THEM INTO BUS. THEY WERE DRIVEN HOME AND RETURNED FOR AFTERNOON SESSION IN SAME DRESSES WHEN THEY WERE AGAIN NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER COURT.

4. AT 6:10 P.M. PRESIDING JUDGE FINALLY ADJOURNED SESSION BECAUSE DEFENSE LAWYERS PLEADED THEY NOT PREPARED TO QUESTION MORE DEFENDANTS, IN CLOSING HE REMINDED DEFENSE LAWYERS THAT THEY MUST MOVE FASTER SINCE ONLY TWO MORE MONTHS REMAINED OF SIX MONTH LEGAL LIMIT REQUIRED FOR COMPLETING TRIAL BEGINNING DATE FROM TIME OF INDICTMENT. HE SET NEXT SESSION FOR JULY 10. SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL05129
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-0683
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760787/aaaacyyw.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PPT
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SEOUL 4890
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EIGHTH SESSION MYONGDONG AFFAIR TRIAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CASC, KS, (MUN, FAYE), (MUN TONG-HWAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006